Authority of India (TRAI) are not being met by most of the operators. Necessary remedial action is being worked out by TRAI.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) As per the Point of Inter-connection (POI) congestion report for the month of December 2005 submitted by the Cellular Mobile Operators to TRAI, the level of POI congestion at 190 POIs was more than 10%.

(f) Yes, Sir.

Public telephones in villages

107. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRI B. J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to provide Rs. 451 crores to set up public telephones in large number of villages in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the villages in Gujarat, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh where this telephony facility would be provided under the above plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Universal Service Obligation (USO) Fund has entered into agreement with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in November, 2004 to provide Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in remaining 66,822 eligible unconnected villages by November, 2007. This excludes villages having less than 100 population and villages lying in thick forest area/ naxalite infested area etc.

Subsidy support is being provided for these VPTs towards capital and operational expenses. 17,182 VPTs out of 66,822 have been provided as on 31.12.2005.

(c) Under this scheme 4,144 VPTs in Gujarat and 4,899 VPTs in Orissa are to be provided. In respect of Uttar Pradesh, all eligible villages have already been provided VPTs.

Expansion of telephone services in rural areas

†108. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR:
SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the States where all villages have been provided telephones by December, 2005;

(b) the States where telephone facilities in all villages are not available.

(c) the reasons for not providing such facilities; and

(d) whether any time-frame has been fixed for providing such facilities and if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) As on 31.12.2005, all eligible villages in Andaman & Nicobar, Bihar, Haryana, Karnataka, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal have already been provided with Village Public Telephones (VPTs) facility. This excludes villages having less than 100 population, lying in thick forest area/naxalite infested area etc.

(b) A statement indicating State-wise number of eligible villages with remain to be provided with telephone facilities in enclosed. (*See* below).

(c) and (d) In November, 2004, Universal Service Obligation ((USO) Fund entered into agreement with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) for providing VPTs in the 66,822 eligible villages. These VPTs are to be provided progressively by November, 2007.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.